

sideration. Being issued by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, which is composed of chemists, pharmacists, pharmacologists and clinicians of the highest standing, it is authoritative; in fact, it is recognized as the standard authority on the newer remedies. When besieged by too persistent detail men, many up-to-date physicians fortify themselves behind N. N. R., taking the stand that they cannot afford to waste time on any preparation which has not gained admittance to its pages.

In the second place, N. N. R. furnishes the physician who has learned how to use it with the answers to a great many perplexing questions that arise in the course of daily practice—and in many instances it is the only book which does furnish this information. What is the distinction between the action of acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) and that of the other salicylates? What is the comparative toxicity of the various cocain substitutes? What manufacturers furnish Bulgarian bacillus preparations—medicinal foods—organ extracts? What is the iodine strength of the non-official organic compounds of iodine compared with the official iodins? What is the standing of pneumococcus vaccine—of the Schick test—of radium therapy? Look in N. N. R.; it is all there.

I believe that you will be doing a good deed if you can make your readers feel that, in owning and consulting N. N. R. they are not merely forwarding the worthy cause of therapeutic reform; they are but doing justice to themselves and their patients. In fact, they cannot afford to do without it.

Yours truly,

W. A. PUCKNER, Secretary,
Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry.

WAIVER OF PRIVILEGE.

A great many doctors seem to be delightfully vague and misinformed on the subject of professional privilege, so-called. This falls into what is known in the law as a confidential communication, or privileged communication, and is classified under the list of subjects which may not be introduced in court or in any judicial proceeding, save and except that the person entitled to the secrecy and the person who would be injured by its violation waives this privilege. In other words, the privilege is not with the physician; it is with the patient. The physician is placed in the position of a trustee of the confidence of the patient, and one of the most serious violations of an obligation known to the law is that of the violation of the duty of a trustee. To what extent this privilege may be waived under varying circumstances is a matter determined differently in the different States. It is held, however, as a rule of law in all States, that the patient may expressly waive the privilege. Constructive waiver, however, is another matter, and some States look upon constructive waiver of privilege very unfavorably. In general it may be said that if the patient brings an action at law involving the professional relation with the physician, it is held to be a constructive waiver. Communications from physician to physician are not considered violations of the privilege, for the reason that any other physician taken into the confidence of the original physician of the patient becomes by that act a co-trustee, and the patient's privilege of secrecy extends to such other physician or physicians as may be entrusted with the confidence.

DR. BLOODGOOD AND CANCER.

Dr. Joseph C. Bloodgood of Johns Hopkins was the honored guest of California in March and part of April, and during his visit delivered many addresses on the subject of cancer, its cure and prevention. He came here on the invitation and under the auspices of the California Academy of Medicine and while in San Francisco was the guest of the President of this Society, Dr. Harry M. Sherman. Not in any way to disparage the remarkable work in the pathology of cancer which has been done by Dr. Bloodgood, but with full recognition of that, the opinion may be expressed that probably the greatest good which Dr. Bloodgood has done or is doing is the creation of a distinct publicity movement along the line of public education. In newspaper language, Dr. Bloodgood has become "good copy"; that simply means that the newspapers will gladly publish reports of his addresses, etc., for the reason that their readers take an interest in them, possibly some of the interest, if not a good deal of it, being due to the fact that they are connected with the name of such a distinguished person. Whatever the cause, or whatever the reason, it is a most desirable condition, and we must congratulate Dr. Bloodgood and also the general public.

THE HARVEST OF THE REAPER.

Not within one's recollection has the Reaper of the human harvest gathered so much of the greatest value to humanity in such a brief space of time as in the last few months. In quick succession went: Favill, one of the most remarkable men that American medicine has ever known, and one of the sturdiest upholders of everything that was for the right, for good, and for betterment. Part Indian he was, and proud of it to his finger tips. A better or a cleaner fighter for what he knew to be right never lived. Rodman, distinguished surgeon and President of the American Medical Association, actively interested in many things for the betterment of the medical profession and very widely for the betterment of the people. Up to the day of his death he was keenly interested in enlarging the Medical Corps of the Army, and in creating an active interest in first aid work and the prevention of unnecessary mutilating accidents. Bob Townsend of New York, for many years Secretary of the New York State Medical Society, and one of the most brilliant orthopedic surgeons in the country. Keen, bright, active, always working for the best in medicine and the best in medical organization. Lutz, the Nestor of the medical profession in Missouri, a man loved by every Missourian and, indeed, by everyone who knew him; a trustee of the American Medical Association and one of the Association's most valuable servants. In our own State, to mention but one, Rose Bullard, one of the most prominent women surgeons in the country and distinctly a leader of the women in medicine in California. It is indeed truly harder for those who remain than for those who do not.